1st February 1929]

Access of the depressed classes to wells under local bodies.

* 1315 *Q.*—Mr. A. B. Shetty : With reference to the answer to question No. 631 answered on 26th November 1928, will the hon. the Minister for Education and Local Self-Government be pleased to lay on the table of the House the information received by the Government in regard to wells or tanks under local bodies to which access is denied to members of the depressed classes ?

A.—The replies of certain local bodies are still awaited.

Mr. A. B. Shetty :—" May I know whether the replies so far received mention any wells or tanks to which access is denied ? "

The hon. Dr. P. Subbarayan :—" Notice."

Municipalities

Alleged irregularities in the election of a Chairman to Chidambaram Municipality.

*1316 *Q.*—Mr. V. I. Muniswami Pillai : Will the hon. the Minister for Education and Local Self-Government be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether the hon. Minister is aware that the Vice-Chairman of the Chidambaram Municipality fixed 5th November 1928 for the election of a Chairman ignoring the action of the outgoing Chairman who fixed 8th November 1928 for this purpose ;

(*b*) what action the Government propose to remedy such irregularity ;

(*c*) whether the hon. Minister is aware that the Vice-Chairman conducted a meeting of the council with a few councillors on 5th November 1928 and elected a chairman notwithstanding the protest made by one of the councillors ;

(*d*) whether it is a fact that one of the councillors drawn from the depressed classes was practically confined in the house of the councillor who was elected as chairman on the 5th November 1928 till the election took place ;

(*e*) whether he is aware that sub-inspectors and constables were posted as sentinels at both the main entrances to the council room thereby preventing the general public from either having entrance to the council room or witnessing the proceedings ;

(*f*) whether any letter was sent by the Vice-Chairman to the Police for bandobast ;

(*g*) if so, whether a copy of the letter will be placed on the table of this House ;

(*h*) whether the Government have received any representation from the intending candidates to the chairmanship of Chidambaram Municipality protesting against the action of the Vice-Chairman and of a few councillors ; and

(*i*) what action Government propose to take thereon ?

A.—(*a*) Yes.

(*b*) The matter is under enquiry by the Collector and the Government will consider the question on receipt of his report.

(*c*) Yes. Twelve councillors out of 18 attended the meeting.

(*d*) The Government have no information. There was no complaint by the aggrieved party.